



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - July 31, 2003

- ***In the West***, showers associated with the monsoon (summer rainy season) continue to provide limited drought relief from the ***Great Basin southward***. In the ***Northwest***, however, hot, dry weather continues to hamper wildfire containment efforts, strain drought-reduced irrigation supplies, and stress dryland crops.
- ***On the Plains***, favorably cooler weather is easing stress on pastures and immature summer crops across the ***northern half of the region***. Hot, dry weather persists, however, on the ***southern Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to approach, reach, or exceed 100 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, corn and soybeans continue to develop under nearly ideal conditions across the majority of the region. Significant stress on summer crops is largely confined to areas along, south, and west of the ***Missouri River***, while a few pockets of unfavorable wetness persist in the ***eastern Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, warm weather and widespread showers are maintaining generally favorable conditions for pastures and immature summer crops, although soil moisture levels are short in some areas ***west of the Delta*** and locally excessive in the ***Southeast***.

Outlook: Warm, humid, unstable air will spread northward across the ***eastern one-third of the U.S.***, triggering occasional showers and thunderstorms. Meanwhile, a nearly stationary storm system in the ***upper Midwest*** will maintain cool (as much as 10 degrees F below normal), unsettled weather and spark potentially severe thunderstorms in the ***Corn Belt and central Plains***. In the ***West***, monsoon showers will continue in ***Southwest and central Rockies***, while hot, mostly dry conditions will persist in the ***northern Rockies and Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 5-9 calls for above-normal temperatures in the ***northern Rockies, northern Plains, and Southwest***, while below-normal temperatures are expected in the ***Ohio and Tennessee Valleys***. Wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast across the ***Northeastern, Mid-Atlantic, and Gulf Coast States***, in addition to the ***Pacific Northwest, and High Plains***. Drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***Great Lakes region, Corn Belt, and Southwest***.

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